

NONTECHNICAL ABSTRACT OF PROTOCOL

Many patients have advanced cancer that has not responded to standard therapies. For these patients, a new approach to treat their cancer (tumor) will be tested. Animal studies have been done using cancer cells into which a cancer fighting gene has been placed. When these modified cancer cells are returned to the animal, the animal can fight the cancer cells better. One of the cancer fighting genes that can be placed in these cancer cells is a white cell activating factor (interleukin 2). If the gene for interleukin-2 is placed into the tumor cells the tumor cells are made to release interleukin-2. If these gene modified cancer cells are used, the release of interleukin-2 by the cancer cells further increases the ability of the animal's white cells to fight the cancer cells by activating these white cells.

This protocol is designed to copy the results obtained with the animals. Patients with cancer who have not responded to therapy will have a piece of their cancer cut out and brought to the laboratory. In the laboratory the cancer cells will be mixed with another cell that has been made to release interleukin-2. The patient's cancer cells mixed with the interleukin-2 producing cells are then injected under the skin of the patient. Every few weeks the patient will return to the clinic to receive an additional injection of mixed cells. The amount of interleukin-2 releasing cells will be gradually increased during the period the person receives the injections. During this time and afterwards the patient is watched for signs that the therapy may be activating white cells that could be helpful in destroying cancer cells. Since this therapy is new, it is not known how well it will work in people. The patients will be watched for possible harmful effects from the therapy. After many patients with many different kinds of cancer have this new therapy, the doctors will be able to tell how safe this new therapy is and begin to assess how well it works. The information the doctors gain from this study may permit the doctors to develop better ways of treating patients with cancer.